

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio

March 2025

tedgoertzel@gmail.com, editor

FUUSM office hours: 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday. The office is in the Religious Education (RE) building, the white house next to the church at 232 Third Street, Marietta OH 45750. Email Dawn at fuusm.office@gmail.com, or call (740) 373-1238.

[Click Here for Information on Becoming a Member](#)

Worship Services

In the Church at Third and Putnam Streets, Marietta, Ohio

Also streamed live on the F.U.U.S.M. Facebook page & via [Zoom link](#).

March 2 **The Future of Religion.** Belief in religion is still strong in the United States, but participation in church services has declined. Many young people say they are spiritual but not religious. Are we approaching another of America's periodic Great Awakenings? What accounts for the growth of megachurches? How will the religions of the next generations be different? What future of religion would we prefer? Presenter: Ted Goertzel, sociologist. Worship Leader: Martha McGovern



March 9. **Jazz from Brooklyn.** Our congregation will Zoom into the March 9 service at the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, New York. Some of you may remember another virtual visit to this church several years ago. We chose this second Sunday to visit because they have a fabulous music program and second Sundays are jazz services. Please join us in the sanctuary, on Zoom, or Facebook live. Worship Leader: Suzyn Mills.

March 16. **Exploring or Lost? We Control Our Fate.** An invitation from the FUUSM Board of Trustees: Join us for a deep dive into how we, as a congregation, can continue to thrive as a liberal force in the Mid-Ohio Valley. We will take a look at how we are trending fiscally and how that trend impacts us going forward.

March 23. **Strengthening Community During Leadership Transition.** Guest Speaker: Pete Mather. Transitions in pastoral leadership foster uncertainty but also offer the opportunity to deepen our sense of connection. Join us for a service that will explore how to recognize, nurture, and celebrate the gifts and contributions of every congregation member in order to build a thriving future for FUUSM that is grounded in our shared principles. Special Music from the FUUSM Choir: "On the Faces of the World," by Mark Burrows

March 30 **Charting the Path Forward.** An invitation from the Board of Trustees: Join us for further exploration of options for our Sunday worship services. We will meet in small groups to share and discuss the options. At the close of the service, we will take a vote. Please bring your smartphones.

A Welcoming Home
by Stephanie "Squish" Rector

Let me tell you about a place I go,
a place I love, a great place I know.
A place where inclusion has beckoned me,
is a place where one can feel free.
It's where we learn patience, understanding, and trust,
and love and kindness is a must.
We work together to make it work,
and friendship is one of many perks.
To some this may come of surprise,
but to see it you must open your eyes.
Where is this great place, you may ask?
It's my favorite place where I do most of my tasks.
We call it FUUSM, our church, our home,
Where with love and friendship, we're never alone.



Squish Rector and her fiancé
Joey Thomas

Calendar of Events
[Click here for calendar updates.](#)

Saturday, March 1

- 9:30-10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi for beginners**, social hall (Darryl Ting)
- 11 a.m –1 p.m, **Empty Bowls**, fundraiser for local food banks. Held at the Williamstown United Methodist Church. Buy your \$15 tickets in advance. Some are available at the Marietta Community Foundation, at the corner of Putnam and Front streets.

Sunday, March 2

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.



Monday, March 3

- 2 p.m., **Caring Committee meeting** via Zoom.
- 6:30 p.m., **Board of Trustees meeting**, RE parlor.

Tuesday, March 4

- 3:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scout Troop meets in the social hall.
- 4:30–6:30 p.m. private use of RE parlor (Kim McMichael)
- 6:30 p.m., Shari Ballantyne's **game night**, social hall. You're invited!

Wednesday, March 5

- 5 p.m., **Worship & Music Committee meeting**, RE parlor

- 7 p.m., **FUUSM Finance Forum**, social hall and on zoom

Saturday, March 8

- 9:30-10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi for beginners**, social hall (Darryl Ting)

Sunday, March 9

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., Quaker meeting (MOV Friends), RE parlor
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.

The Calendar of Events continues at the end of Confluence.

**March 13 Hour of Environmental Action:
The Effects of DOGE on Environmental Issues**

It's so easy to be angry, disheartened, and frightened about actions the White House and DOGE have implemented since the inauguration. It's much harder to DO SOMETHING about it. That's what the Hour of Environmental Action intends to figure out: How can we do something meaningful and effective to plant seeds of positive change to protect Mother Earth and all her children?

The third Hour of Environmental Action will be at 7 p.m., March 13, and the topic will shine a light on the effects on federal government cuts and funding freezes on programs and agencies that deal with environmental issues, including climate change, natural resources, energy policy, and more. As usual, we plan to spend the first 15 or 20 minutes with a presentation from an expert on the topic, and then the remaining hour figuring out what is the most effective thing we can do about this situation: whom should we call or write to, and what words would be most effective to state?

We intend to meet on the second Thursday of every month, from 7 to 8 p.m., and focus on one timely topic. If you can't make it to the March 13 meeting, please put the April 10 meeting on your calendar. —submitted by Dawn Hewitt for the Green Sanctuary Committee.



Service Recognition Award for Martha Webster

This month, the Board's Service Recognition Award goes to Martha Webster for her work with our choir to bring us beautiful music at Sunday Services.

Martha is a highly trained professional. Starting with a BA in Music Education, she has gone on to get a BA in Music Therapy, and a Masters in Education, Instructional Design. She is currently working on a Masters in Music Education.

Martha is dedicated to teaching music to others. She teaches music full time in the Belpre school system ... K-6 General Music, 3-6 choir, and Beginning Band. And she finds time to serve as the Assistant Director for the Belpre High School Marching Band. And don't forget all those special performances during the school year and those trips away for competitions.

And then Martha shows up every Sunday, bright and cheerful ... to direct our choir in practices and performances (and throw in a few midweek practices to boot). She is an excellent teacher. Her selection of music is an expression of UU values as well as a musical challenge for the choir. We in the choir have learned so much from her and had a lot of fun and joy in the process. You should join the choir and see for yourself! Thank you, Martha.

Sent by Darryl Ting

Pledge Drive

Pledge Drive letters have been sent out via email and via USPS. Please send in your pledge in any way as indicated in the pledge form as soon as you can. If you mislaid your personalized pledge drive letter, you can [print a generic one here](#). Or, for an even easier option send an email to: gbanziger497@gmail.com, stating:

“I/We pledge (TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY) FOR THE YEAR 7/1/25–7/30/26)”

Please type your full name on your email since it is not always obvious from your email address.

Forum on FUUSM Finances

This event will be held on March 5, Wednesday at 7pm via zoom and in person at the Fellowship Hall. More details will follow by email. Sent by George Banziger.



News from Green Sanctuary



10 films from 4 continents in 2 hours! Climate Future Film Festival!

The Green Sanctuary Committee invites you to join us (and co-host Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action) for Merlyn Climate Grants **Climate Future Film Festival**, right here at FUUSM in the social hall. We plan two, free-admission screenings:

Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m.

repeated on

Saturday, March 22, at 2 p.m.

This traveling festival of award-winning short films explores the full range of human and artistic response to what may be coming next. The 10 short films—drama, satire, comedy, films of hope and films of sadness, documentary and animation—were created by filmmakers from four different continents.

Bill McKibben, one of America's leading voices and authors on climate, is the Festival's Honorary Judge and introduces it on screen.

While climate change is front-page news, in our own back pages many are grieving. Or numb. Or outraged. Or frightened. Or isolated and feeling hopeless. Others may be oddly celebrating a future of climate disorder. Watch the trailer and see the descriptions of the films at

<https://www.climatefuturefilm.com>

Calling all filmmakers: The Festival is produced by Merlyn Climate Grants (Merlyn Education and Climate Protection Project), a Rhode Island 501(c)3). Merlyn is currently accepting short film submissions for their second Festival, which will premiere in Rhode Island in late 2025 and tour throughout 2026. Rules and information about submissions are available at

<https://filmfreeway.com/ClimateFuture>

Submitted by Adeline Bailey on behalf of the Green Sanctuary Committee

Board Briefs

February 2025

Present: Vic Elam, Ron Rees, Robin Bozian, Darryl Ting, Shari Ballantyne, Nancy Luthy, Karen Binkley (phone), Don Poole (Zoom)

Don recommended and the Board vote to increase the insurance on our buildings.

The Finance Committee reported that our finances do not support a full time minister.

The Board met with Beth Casebolt (UUA) to learn that a Contract Minister approach will give FUUSM access to the UUA pool for temporary ministers. There are many options to consider as we move forward. The Board will seek input from the Congregation.

Families who have an infestation of bedbugs are encouraged to 3attend 4services by Zoom until they have been clean for 3 months.

The Nominating committee will be informed that two positions need to be filled. Nancy and Karen are going off the Board.

For more detail, Board minutes are posted on our website.

Service Recognition Award: Martha Webster

Sent by Nancy Luthy



Amy Rush shares that Josilyn got her online certification for CPR which was required from her home school.



The Roller Coaster of Change

This is a concept developed by Stephen Haines, founder and CEO of the Haines Centre for Strategic Management. It serves as a framework to understand the natural, normal, and highly predictable cycles individuals experience during change. Haines emphasizes that change is an individual, emotional, and psychological process, and that productivity and quality often decline before improvements are realized. He outlines a six-stage model to navigate these cycles effectively:

[Click here to continue](#)



Beth Casebolt, from the UUA, preaching about "Riding the Roller Coaster of Change." This is a challenge our church is facing.

"Once upon a Friday night dreary
Some UUs wandered,
cold and weary.
Hoping to become less bleary,
They gathered at FUUSM to
Become more cheery.
And they did!" 😊 by Nancy Lee



Photos by Ralph Olander, 2/21/2025



- 6.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., Quaker meeting (MOV Friends), RE parlor
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.

Monday, March 24

- 7 p.m., **Finance Committee** meeting via Zoom.

Tuesday, March 25

- 3:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scout Troop meets in the social hall.
- 4:30–6:30 p.m. private use of RE parlor (Kim McMichael)
- 6:30 p.m., Shari Ballantyne’s **game night**, social hall. You’re invited!

Saturday, March 29

- 9:30-10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi for beginners**, social hall (Darryl Ting)

Sunday, March 30

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
 - 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
 - **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.
- 12:15 p.m., **Board of Trust Governors**, RE parlor. 1